



## Official Hurricane Season

The official Atlantic Basin (including the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico) Hurricane Season runs from June 1 through November 30. These dates were chosen from climatological records, which show that the majority of tropical storms and hurricanes occur during this six month period, with a peak in activity from about mid August to mid October. However, tropical systems have been known to develop outside of this time frame, but it is relatively rare.

Each year on average, the Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico will see about 10 named storms (including hurricanes and tropical storms), six of which will be hurricanes. Usually, most hurricanes remain out over the open ocean, causing problems mainly to shipping. However, about five hurricanes strike somewhere along the United States coastline every three years. Of these five, two will be major hurricanes (Category 3 or higher on the Saffir-Simpson Scale).